

# GOLDWATER-NICHOLS REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1986

## Proponent

The proponent for this document is the Congress of the United States.

## Web Site Location

This document is at [http://www.dtic.dla.mil/jcs/title\\_10.html](http://www.dtic.dla.mil/jcs/title_10.html).

## Definition

*CINC* - The acronym "CINC" refers to the commander of a unified or specified command.

*Joint* - A term that connotes activities, operations, organizations, etc., in which elements of more than one military department of the same nation participate. (When not all military departments are involved, the participating Services are identified, e.g., Joint Army-Navy).

*Unified Command* - A command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander and composed of significant assigned components of two or more military departments, and which is established and so designated by the President, through the Secretary of Defense with the advice and assistance of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

*Specified Command* - A command with a broad continuing mission and that is established and so designated by the President, through the Secretary of Defense with the advice and assistance of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is normally composed of forces from one service.

## Synopsis

The purpose of the Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act of 1986 was to enhance the legal authority of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and the unified commanders. Its practical purpose was to improve U.S. warfighting capability, particularly in terms of organizational relationships and responsibilities. Implementation has been, at times, controversial in terms of the shifting of power from the Services to the Joint Staff and the CINCs, particularly as interpreted by the Joint Staff.

### The Act:

- ◆ designated the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) as the principal military adviser to the President;
- ◆ transfers the functions and responsibilities previously assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the CJCS;
- ◆ created the position of Vice Chairman;
- ◆ specified operational chain of command to run from President to Secretary of Defense to unified and specified commanders.
- ◆ increased focus on the authority of the CINCs, highlighting their responsibilities to organize and command assets in their area of operations; and
- ◆ increased the role of the CINCs in resource allocation.



Report Documentation Page		
<b>Report Date</b> Aug 1998	<b>Report Type</b> N/A	<b>Dates Covered (from... to)</b> -
<b>Title and Subtitle</b> Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act of 1986		<b>Contract Number</b>
		<b>Grant Number</b>
		<b>Program Element Number</b>
<b>Author(s)</b>		<b>Project Number</b>
		<b>Task Number</b>
		<b>Work Unit Number</b>
<b>Performing Organization Name(s) and Address(es)</b> U.S. Army AMEDD Center and School Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234		<b>Performing Organization Report Number</b>
<b>Sponsoring/Monitoring Agency Name(s) and Address(es)</b>		<b>Sponsor/Monitor's Acronym(s)</b>
		<b>Sponsor/Monitor's Report Number(s)</b>
<b>Distribution/Availability Statement</b> Approved for public release, distribution unlimited		
<b>Supplementary Notes</b>		
<b>Abstract</b>		
<b>Subject Terms</b>		
<b>Report Classification</b> unclassified		<b>Classification of this page</b> unclassified
<b>Classification of Abstract</b> unclassified		<b>Limitation of Abstract</b> UU
<b>Number of Pages</b> 2		

## What Does This Mean for Military Public Health?

To support the emerging joint perspective for defense we need to adopt the following themes common to other planning documents on our list.

- ◆ concentrate on supporting the CINCs during planning and operational phases;
- ◆ assist with the development of a Joint service approach in addressing the health promotion and preventive medicine needs of commanders, especially the CINCs;
- ◆ create a common culture throughout the DoD that values health and fitness. We will focus on value added products and services that will increase our ability to help shape the international HP & PM environment of tomorrow;
- ◆ USACHPPM could serve as a center of excellence for the full spectrum of health promotion and preventive medicine services in managing the health of our soldiers and beneficiaries; and
- ◆ assess our preventive medicine organizational strengths and weaknesses to ensure preventive medicine and health promotion assets can perform their mission both today and in the future.